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City of Visalia, California  
June 30, 1978  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of the Visalia City Council  
Upon Adoption of the 1978-79 Budget, June 30, 1978

Adoption of the Budget

The Visalia City Council is pleased to adopt this budget for the 1978-79 fiscal year. This budget, which becomes effective on July 1st, represents a break in a historical trend of increasing City expenditures and a growing City work force; overall, it is four percent (4%) lower than the total budget for the fiscal year just ending, and it contains no additional City personnel.

It is our hope and goal this budget represents a new trend in Visalia; a trend of keeping growth in the cost and size of government to a necessary minimum.

In adopting this budget, the Council completes four weeks of rigorous review, analysis and deliberation. Over the many hours of public work sessions, hearings, and meetings, we directed the ~~STAFF IN~~ <sup>STAFF IN</sup> ~~MAKING CUTS IN~~ <sup>GOVERNMENT</sup> ~~STUDIES LIBRARY~~ <sup>1978</sup> excess of \$900,000 from the original proposed budget. In addition, the final budget contains revenue from fees and charges which is \$24,000 more than was originally proposed. These fee and charge ~~INCREASES WILL~~ <sup>INCREASES WILL</sup> minimize, and in some cases eliminate, taxpayer support of certain programs and services which benefit a small minority of residents.

The Council is satisfied with this budget. We feel our long hours of work and the resulting substantial cuts and fee adjustments represent a significant response to the public's desire for a leaner, less burdensome government.

Thanks to Staff

We are also pleased with the entire City staff. Over the years and today, Visalia has been fortunate to have a competent and dedicated group of employees; they are worthy of the community's respect. The staff responded to our desire for a tight budget, and their hard work, ability, and advice

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was of great assistance in providing us with the information and resources necessary to produce this budget. This Council is confident the same ability and dedication will result in prudent management and operations during the coming year and the years to come.

#### A Budget for the Future

This budget sets a course for the future as well as an expenditure guide for the coming year.

This Council is very concerned with maintaining a strong financial position for this city and this budget will allow us to attain a general fund balance in excess of <sup>\$1.4 million</sup> dollars at the end of the 1978-79 fiscal year. With this balance, we will be able to deal confidently and realistically with the uncertain future of local government financing.

This Council is very concerned with the maintaining Visalia as a quality community. Toward this goal we have budgeted nearly \$3.5 million dollars in capital projects; these will help maintain our streets and enrich the beauty of our town. When the 1977-78 capital budget is discounted for two major new street construction projects, the 1978-79 capital project budget is being maintained <sup>about</sup> at the same level as 1977-78.

This Council is interested in seeking alternative funding sources for a variety of programs and projects. And this budget puts that interest into action. First, by the use of innovative practices, such as tying funding for the landscaping of Ice House Park to the sale of property at Soroptimist Park. And secondly, by the implementation of practical practices, such as asking those who benefit from a service - be they land developers or recreation program participants - to pay a fair price for their service or program.

Most of all, the Council is concerned with maintaining and improving the quality of services to Visalia citizens. Because of this concern, we, the Council and the staff, will review and evaluate many City policies and operations over the coming months. Our goal will be to find innovative,



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realistic ways to increase operational efficiency and effectiveness.

For example, we will make diligent efforts to staff the new fire station and treatment plant addition by reallocating currently authorized positions and using federally funded employment programs, instead of hiring additional employees and increasing the burden on local taxpayers.

We welcome all citizen help in achieving our goals. Come forward with your ideas and concerns; they are welcome, they will be listened to and considered.

#### Closing Comments

Preparing the budget has not been easy. The work is hard and the decisions are difficult. And while tonight we are finally able to bring preparation of the 1978-79 budget to a close, we realize this is only the beginning of our continued effort to serve you, the public, and be responsive and responsible to the current and long-term needs of Visalia.

We want to thank the citizens for their patience, suggestions and support, and, once again, thank the City staff for a job well done. We have a budget the entire City can be proud of.

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